

Before Reading Strategy:
How To do A Picture Walk Through A Book

WHAT IS A PICTURE WALK?

A picture walk is simply going through the pages of a book before reading it aloud with the student/s and using the illustrations to determine what is happening on each page of the book.

THE BASIC STEPS

1. Point out author and illustrator.
2. Show book's cover, read title.
3. Look at story pictures (prior to reading text).
4. Name things in each picture
5. Correlate picture icons with the story pictures
6. Make predictions about book's content. Stop before the end of the story.

WHY DO A PICTURE WALK?

"Walking through" the pictures in a text with an adult prepares a student for reading the text and teaches the use of visual cues as a reading strategy.

Picture walks spark interest in the story and set the purpose for the student to read and learn more about the story.

It supports the student to get a feel for where and when the story happens, the characters in the story, and what might happen in the story.

They can give students a tool to organize the information in the story, increasing the student's comprehension of the story.

GETTING STARTED

- Explain that before you read the story, you and the student will look at the pictures together to see if you can guess what the book is about.
- Then you will read the book together to see if your guesses were correct.
- Start by looking at the cover of the book.
- Ask the student what he/she sees on the cover. Ask what he/she thinks the story might be about.
- Proceed through the pages of the book, in order, looking carefully at the details in each picture. Ask the student who, what, where, when, why and how questions about the pictures.
- If the student is reluctant to provide information about the pictures you can model the strategy yourself by thinking out loud.
- Once you have completed this process with all the pictures, read the story with the student. Stop when appropriate to discuss whether the student's predictions were right. Discuss why the prediction was correct or incorrect using information from both the pictures and the text.